

Outreach Division of School Improvement

February 2015

Volume 4, Issue 1

Important Dates

ISTEP+ Applied Skills 02/25-03/13/2
SBOE Special Meeting 2/13
SBOE March Meeting 03/12

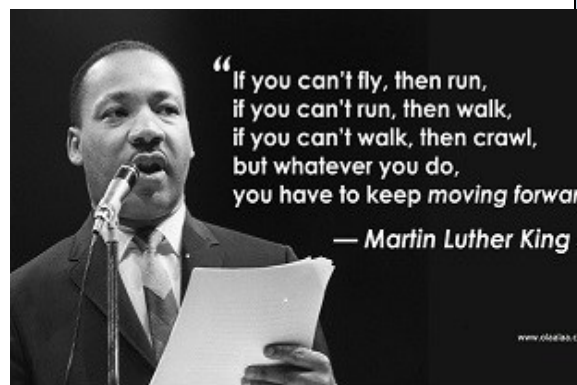
February

I hope you are all staying warm as the winter continues to be unpredictable. ISTEP+ is approaching us soon for Applied Skills. If you have any questions, please let me know. Also, check with your district test coordinator often, because they are receiving updates from the Student Assessment division of the IDOE.

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ Acuity Readiness 1 is a great tool to use when planning instruction.

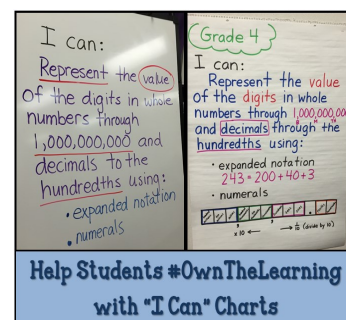
Effective Instruction

This year, I will highlight a different Turnaround Principle on which to focus. This month, the focus is on Effective Instruction—or Turnaround Principle 3. You can find more information on our [webpage](#) also.

Research shows that a strong Core instructional program and Tier 1 instruction is a key to success. As lessons are

planned, teachers should identify the Student Learning Objectives. These should be posted in student friendly language so students can clearly see them, and teachers and students should be referring to them throughout the lesson. I Can or SWBAT (student will be able to) statements lend themselves to clear learning objectives. Exit tickets are an effective tool for teachers to use. The exit tick-

ets tied to the learning objectives allow teachers to see who mastered the skill, and who needs additional support.



Help Students #OwnTheLearning
with "I Can" Charts

Effective Instruction

The focus of this article for this month is [Turnaround Principle 3 –Effective Instruction](#). Turnaround Principles are not only used as a strategic system to support schools that may be struggling, but more importantly the eight principles are indicators for high performing schools. When discussing [Turnaround Principle 3](#) it is important to emphasize that there are many components that come together to create an environment of high quality effective best practices that develop into effective instruction. These components are outlined in the following reading.

Learning Objectives

Learning objectives must be posted and referred to within the lesson. These set the tone for students of what students are learning, the purpose, and how it applies to their life. The learning objective must be clear and measurable. It is essential that these objectives are aligned to the curriculum, Indiana Academic standards, and also align to the assessments that the student will be given.

Instructional Strategies

It is important to implement instructional strategies that require active engagement. Effective instruction demands the use of a variety of instructional and response strategies to meet the needs of multiple learning styles. It is also important for teachers to utilize student learning data from formal and informal assessments to intentionally select these strategies to maximize student engagement and growth.

Checking for Understanding

Checks for understanding (CFUs) are often neglected as an essential point within a lesson to help gauge student understanding or learning to help inform, monitor, and adjust instruction. Data from CFUs can and should be utilized to select instructional strategies and develop student groupings. When implemented effectively most students will master the objectives on first instruction and those that do not should be given further support. Administrators should monitor the use of CFUs during informal walk-throughs and formal observations.

Content Knowledge

It is important that all teachers are highly qualified in the area to be taught and have the necessary content knowledge to support effective instruction. Lessons need to be relevant rich with relevant standards-based content. The teacher is effective in approaching the content from multiple angles to support all learning styles. Also in effective classrooms students are highly engaged and are asking relevant questions that are addressed by the teacher or other students.

Use of Data

Effective teachers have the skills to utilize multiple measures of data which include diagnostic, formative, and summative data to differentiate and improve student achievement. It is important to establish a culture that data is reviewed in every teacher meeting to allow the staff to collaborate as a team to meet the needs of students. The use of data from CFUs and evidence from student learning can be utilized to re-teach and spiral as needed. It is essential that data is reviewed in a systematic way to identify students that are not mastering the basic skills so that they can be given diagnostic assessment to target their learning needs.

Focus and Priority Schools:

- 1) Attention Superintendents: Ensuring Strong Leadership for Priority Schools (all schools being monitored as priority whether current F, previous F or 2 Ds to now B or C) documents need to be submitted by Feb. 28th. Please submit the proper 2015 Ensuring Leadership Documents and Evidence by email to ldercach@doe.in.gov
- 2) Have you checked out the Outreach Site? There are resources for all 8 turnaround principles, dates to know, and all of the documents you need. <http://www.doe.in.gov/outreach>
- 3) If you have any questions, please contact me for assistance.

Resources

College and Career Readiness Assessment

I am hearing from many teachers and principals wondering how the new assessment will look to students. The Office of Student Assessment has a link to the College and Career Readiness Assessment sample. They encourage that teachers, principals, parents, and students utilize this resource. The link below directs you to the site. The login and password is already populated with the proper log-in information. <http://experience-ccra-in.ctb.com/>



Family Engagement

Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR) announces **The Child Care Search** button, a **free** service that directs users to www.childcareindiana.org and allows your school to partner with the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR) and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to help families find high quality child care and out-of-school time options. **Adding the Child Care Search button to your school website is easy and FREE!** For more information, visit www.iaccrr.org and click on 'Link to Us'. For questions, contact the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral at datahelp@iaccrr.org.

Assessment & Accountability

Assessment and Accountability Transition 2014-15—Assessment/Accountability [Chart](#)

Assessment [Blueprints and Instructional & Assessment Guidance Documents](#)

Assessment [Dates](#)

Acuity [Dates](#)

Acuity Information—recent [Power Point](#) regarding changes to Acuity for the 2014-15 School Year

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Other ways to connect to IDOE

www.doe.in.gov/outreach

[Online Communities of Practice](#)

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